

COMMISSION MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

Date: 15 November 2017

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David Saladino		dsaladino@vhb.com		
Scott Burbank		SBurbank@Vhb.com		
Jackie Schultz	Satisfaction	WJ Dadds@North	658.215	
Michelle Moulton	AMTRAK	Michelle@MainstreetCoaching.com	847-999	
Lisa Steele	AMTRAK	esteele.v@gmail.com	864-7999	
Xobai Gulo	473	jcaulo@champlain.edu	865-5770	
Heather Stewart		HeatherSE@curtis.com	864-9800	
Ashley Bond	WVWMC Parking	Ashley.bond@vvhbhealth.org	847-4573	
Jenny Morse	Instrument Charge	j.morse@bulldogfund.org	802-805-5384	
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Please note that this sign-in sheet and any information provided on it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.

Thank you to the Commission for allowing us to attend and speak at this Public Hearing. My name is Melinda Moulton and I am the CEO of Main Street Landing. For the past 35 years I have been working with Lisa Steele to redevelop the Burlington Waterfront. In the last 100 years there were 22 attempts to revitalize the waterfront, we were the first ones to get a shovel in the ground in 1993 – which began the resurgence our citizens are enjoying today.

I remember several years ago walking back from the Lake & College Building – I noticed a camera man from WCAX and a top City official standing next to our Union Station Surface Lot. They were filming our lot and the city official was being interviewed. I stopped and asked them what they were doing, and the newsman told me “Well, Melinda, this is the location where the City wants to relocate the Community College of Vermont”. I was shocked – and asked him to please pack up the camera and refrain from putting this story on the news because our property was not for sale, but slated for development at some point in the future.

I then turned to the City official and told him that he needs to check in with us before he plans to use our private property for public use.

I feel like this is a little bit like De Ju Vu. Lisa and I are here before your Commission wondering how the State of Vermont, City of Burlington, and the Regional Planning Commission could be proposing to install a storage and service location for the

Amtrak Train in front of our most valuable pieces of developable property without checking in with the owners – the “stakeholders”.

If Susan Molzon from Public Works had not sent me an e-mail last Thursday – 6 days ago to alert me about this – we would not have been here today. All this was unbeknownst to us.

Main Street Landing has been doing a lot of heavy lifting around the return of Amtrak to Burlington. We built the train station at One Main - using Federal dollars. And we have been managing it for the State for 20 years at a PROFIT to the the State of Vermont. We acted in good faith at every turn AND We expect the same IN RETURN.

In our mind’s eye – we see thousands of people arriving by train from New York and Montreal – passing through the station and out on to Burlington’s Main Street. This is an economic development project that will provide additional income for the city and people will be arriving without their cars.

This has always been our vision – one that respects the integrity of this precious place and honors the future potential development by Main Street Landing.

An Amtrak storage and service spur directly in front and adjacent to our property at the foot of Main Street has never been part of our vision – and in fact it is antithetical to anything we believe should happen in the Core of the Downtown Waterfront.

The Amtrak Overnight Storage and Service location should not be in the City's Waterfront Core – but two blocks to the south in the existing Rail Yard that exists for the storage and servicing of trains.

Thank you,

Melinda Moulton

Nov. 15th, 2017

Good Evening, my name is Lisa Steele, I am the Owner and President of Main Street Landing. I am here tonight to express my concerns about the possibility of Amtrak locating a storage and service location between King and College Streets. Main Street Landing has been involved in the cleanup, master planning and redevelopment of the waterfront for 35 years. We have invested years of our lives and millions of dollars to insure that what we created for the City supported the community fabric of inclusion and public good. Our buildings provide the citizens of Burlington with access to the waterfront, and our commitment to the return of passenger rail has been unflinching.

However, the thought of an Amtrak Train lodging in front of our property located between King and College Streets for servicing - in the downtown Burlington District - where people = children and families - and the elderly travel from the downtown to the lake to enjoy the view and the amenities - is deeply disturbing.

This plan would interrupt and corrupt the flow of humanity and civic accessibility with an overnight and servicing spur and train track - and even the consideration of this plan is beyond comprehensible. I do not know what it means to "service" an Amtrak train, but I do know that we do not want any toxic chemicals introduced to the Core of Downtown Burlington's Waterfront and Lake Champlain.

When we created Main Street Landing we deferred to the will and the wishes of the citizenry - we create open and local and public spaces - access stairs and walkways - view corridors - and amenities like visual and performing arts. We also have been the #1 advocates for the return of Passenger Rail - and we are truly excited that Amtrak will be arriving in 2020. It is because of our willingness to work with the State of Vermont that Amtrak is coming to our town.

We are deeply enthusiastic for the return of passenger rail to Burlington - But - for all our efforts hard work and trust - we are now being included in a plan to have a train sitting overnight and being serviced right in front of our most beloved and valuable pieces of developable property. This was not the deal we struck back in 1987 - and we will not accept this happening now.

Thank you.

Lisa Steele

Nov. 15th, 2017



Melinda Moulton <melinda@mainstreetlanding.com>

Please support Main Street Landing at a Public Hearing.

Lawrence Sudbay <lsudbay@gmavt.net>

Fri, Nov 10, 2017 at 3:02 PM

To: Melinda Moulton <melinda@mainstreetlanding.com>

Melinda,

The option of Amtrak locating their overnight storage and service area across the street from my condominium is ridiculous. All the other 3 options are in a far better location for Amtrak than to create a new set of tracks for the storage and servicing of their trains in the "middle" of Burlington directly on the waterfront in between College St & King St. When we purchased the unit 2 years ago we did so understanding we would be in an urban area with noise from commercial businesses and bike path traffic along with an occasional NOISY train. However the prospects of more rails for storage and servicing of trains will add an intolerable amount of noise and will be an eye-sore for us and the entire community and tourists who want to enjoy our vibrant waterfront.

Thank you for your advocacy on our behalf to have them eliminate this option from their list.

Thank you,

Larry Sudbay

Owner of Unit 101 in Steele Building

On Nov 9, 2017, at 2:43 PM, Melinda Moulton <melinda@mainstreetlanding.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



Melinda Moulton <melinda@mainstreetlanding.com>

Please support Main Street Landing at a Public Hearing.

Springer Harris <springer.harris@teucrium.com>

Fri, Nov 10, 2017 at 4:08 PM

To: Melinda Moulton <melinda@mainstreetlanding.com>

Cc: Springer Harris <springer.harris@teucrium.com>

I will likely need to travel for work and unable to attend, however I think this is an awful option.

I can provide the following. I hope it helps.

Dear Members of the DPW Commission,

My name is Springer Harris and I am a 6 year waterfront tenant at Main Street Landing, President of the Burlington Rotary Club and committee member of the Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Committee. While I am unable to attend this evenings meeting I would like to make it known that I adamantly oppose the use of the waterfront between King and College street as an overnight storage and servicing area for Amtrak. If such a facility had been present 6 years ago when I decided to move a team of people to Burlington I would not be a tenant of Main Street Landing. That decision would have been such a shame because I have loved every single day of being in the beautiful building that Melinda provides to the business and nonprofit community.

Burlington leaders have worked tirelessly to clean up the waterfront, make it accessible to all, and provide a prosperous space for business to thrive. Through my role as committee member of the Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Committee I am one of those citizens working to improve and protect the waterfront. This decision to have a rail yard (inside of our BID) would be detrimental to our efforts to further expand the successes of church street to the greater downtown, including the waterfront. As far as I can see this facility would be in direct contradiction to the immense efforts of Plan BTV.

I would like to make it clear that I am truly excited to have Amtrak arrive in Burlington. It will be a huge positive for the city. However, having a maintenance and storage facility in the heart of downtown and inside a Business Improvement District does not make sense. After evaluating the four proposed locations it is clear to me that a current industrial site such as the existing railyard or beach track would have significantly less impact on citizen enjoyment, visitor recreation and business prosperity.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of the city. I wish you luck on making your decision. I hope that you please consider wisely the long term and unintended consequences that will result from the choice to place an industrial train facility in a location that so many people have worked so hard on trying to revive. It would be a true shame to degrade all of that progress.

Thank you.

Springer Harris

301.706.0939

Springer.Harris@Teucrium.com

Ward 4 Homeowner

Teucrium Trading Manager

Burlington Rotary Club President

Main Street Landing Tennent

Downtown Business Improvement District Advisory Committee Member

From: Melinda Moulton [mailto:melinda@mainstreetlanding.com]

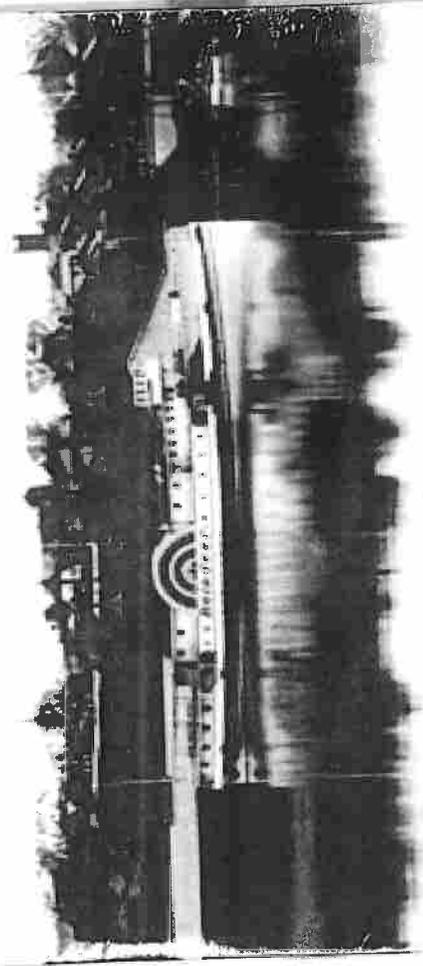
Sent: Thursday, November 09, 2017 2:44 PM

To: melinda moulton

Subject: Please support Main Street Landing at a Public Hearing.

[Quoted text hidden]

Main Street Landing
Presents



The History of Burlington's Waterfront

A Rick Moulton Production

DVD